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Commentary for the lofty and idealistic principles and beliefs the President, in his state of the union message last night, said were the exclusive motivation for U.S. action, was provided by the evening TV newscasts on both NBC and WBS last night and on CBS tonight.

The freedom and welfare of the people of South Viet Nam, which is the only reason, according to the President, for our presence, requires the destruction of every home where the frustrated 8,000 man U.S. force is finding no visible military opponents, the destruction of all food supplies, the burning of those crops not already ruined by air-applied chemicals, the gassing or smoking of the extensive underground bunkers (for which special machines, illustrated, have been invented. The bunkers are rendered uninhabitable for 6 months, so at least the local citizenry is prevented from dwelling in unhealthy surroundings), napalming and aerial bombing, and, of course, the removal of all the people there who, according to the pictures, are entirely women and children, with a few old men, too old for anything except the patient waiting for the inevitable. In one illustrated case, the sound track said shots had been directed at the U.S. troops from one village, illustrated, who then launched a full-scale attack, complete with artillery, etc, against the village, with unspecified casualties being inflicted. Presumably, this attack was against women, since no others were reported in the area.

The is the hingly-touted campaign that was going to get results in the Mekong. Even those for whom we are ostensibly fighting, the South Viet Namese Army, were not told in advance; in fact, the entire operation was kept secret from them until after it had begun because they are untrustworthy, their ranks having been thoroughly penetrated by the NLF. Nonetheless, the report are clear and consistent, the NLF new in advance and practically none were casualties. They did leave snipers behind, whose work apparently was effective.

Today's pictures show essentially the same thing. Dan Rather, CBS, said in explaining the pictures of burning homes, "U.S. troops continue to burn all the houses they find, and all the crops". He said that despite the history of the French with tanks, etc., because this was higher land the U.S. brass was determined to try them. So, an armored column was shown entirely blocked by the damage done to the tracks of the lead tank. This should not have happened, of course, for there is some strange magic that makes Americans superior to, wiser, braver and more successful than the French, of, for that matter, anyone.

Last night's news had a touching sequence of the resistance of the women, all of whom were being loaded onto American helicopters and airlifted away, to freedom, meaning separation from their homes, lands and presumably the male members of their families fighting with the guerrillas. The condition of the camps

in which "regugees" are being confined has recently been the topic of some of the most lucid description, the polite reflection of which would be entirely unfit for even subhuman occupation.

One of the women succeeded in either breaking away or persuading her captors, despite the language barrier, of the need for her return to the bunker. Her children were there, and they were removed in time to be saved from the techniques by which the U.S. army frees these unfree people.

No one has seen fit to comment on it, in either papers, magazines or electronic journalism, but the only precedents for this type of warfare that I can recall were the Nazis and Italian and Japanese fascists, who also were "freeing" the world from "communism".